



THE ASSOCIATION FOR

*DRESSINGS*  
& *SAUCES*

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August 23, 2000

Dockets Management Branch (HFA-305)  
Food and Drug Administration  
5630 Fishers Lane, Room 1061  
Rockville, Maryland 20857

RE: Docket No. 98N-0359; Program Priorities in  
the Center for Food Safety and Applied  
Nutrition

The Association for Dressings and Sauces (ADS) appreciates the opportunity to provide input regarding FDA's Center for Food Safety and Applied Nutrition's (CFSAN) program priorities for the year 2001, as requested in the June 26 Federal *Register* (FR) notice (65 FR 39415). ADS is an international association of manufacturers of dressings for salads, mayonnaise, mustard and specialty sauces and their suppliers. A list of our members is enclosed.

We applaud the Agency for continuing to provide interested parties the opportunity to participate in the CFSAN priority-setting process. ADS previously submitted comments on CFSAN's priorities for 1999 and 2000 in response to earlier Agency requests. (See ADS' July 14, 1998 and August 23, 1999 comments to the docket.) We continue to agree that the implementation of the President's Food Safety Initiative (FSI) should be CFSAN's top priority, including the emphasis on imported products in addition to domestic products. As part of FSI, coordination on foodborne disease outbreaks should be a priority. Too often a food is wrongly implicated in a foodborne disease outbreak because of the lack of coordination among state and federal agencies investigating the outbreak.

However, as our earlier comments stated there are other important functions in which the Agency should focus its efforts, specifically the continued maintenance and administration of the food standards program, national uniformity, promoting international harmonization, and preventing economic fraud. We still strongly believe these areas deserve CFSAN attention and a place on the "A" list of priorities.

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It is evident from comments received on the Agency's Advance Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (ANPRM) on food standards (60 *FR* 67492; December 29, 1995) that a number of existing standards presently serve as barriers to the utilization of new technologies and required ingredients to improve existing products. As a result, petitions have been prepared and filed in several important product categories to affect needed amendments to recognize the advances in food technology and the need for flexibility.

On January 13, 1998, ADS submitted a Citizen Petition that reflected the consensus reached within the dressings industry on how FDA should proceed in implementing the ANPRM with respect to the standards of identity of interest to this industry. The Association requested that the Commissioner of Food and Drugs initiate rulemaking to (1) repeal the standard of identity for French dressing (21 CFR 169.15), and (2) revise, simplify and modernize the standards of identity for mayonnaise and salad dressing (21 CFR 169.140, 169.150). ADS' efforts to update or repeal obsolete standards should be supported by FDA, but almost three years later, no action has been taken by the Agency, despite the fact that the Association provided the necessary information to move forward.

The goal of the ANPRM is important. Standards need to be updated and modernized in keeping with improving technology, as the Agency itself acknowledged in the document, "2000 CFSAN Program Priorities." Item 2 on the "B" list for Strategy 2.2 – Nutrition, Health Claims and Labeling is to "develop a coordinated plan between FDA and USDA to correlate existing food standards with current technological innovations." In its recent notice regarding program priorities, the Agency specifically requested comments on the fiscal year (FY) 2000 "B" list activities that should be elevated to the "A" list for completion in FY 2001. ADS believes the development of a coordinated plan between FDA and USDA to ensure technological innovations are reflected in existing food standards should be elevated to an "A" list priority.

Similarly, national uniformity among federal and state agencies should be an "A" list priority for CFSAN in FY 2001. There should be a single set of food safety regulations interpreted in the same way by both federal and state regulators. A uniform set of regulations and interpretations will eliminate the confusion that currently exists as industry strives for compliance at the local and federal levels. Legislation ("The National Uniformity for Food Act of 2000") is currently pending in Congress that would establish federal preemption of state regulations regarding food additives and warning labels. ADS believes national uniformity is extremely important and is participating in a coalition in support of this legislation.

The modernization and maintenance of United States (U.S.) food standards and national uniformity of regulations, including those pertaining to food safety, are also important as the U.S. participates in the Codex Alimentarius process. In order for the U.S. to be

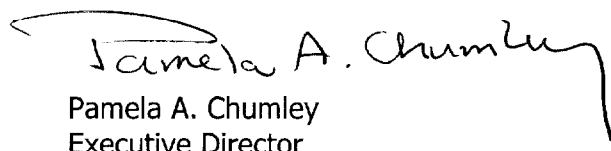
Dockets Management Branch (HFA-305)  
August 23, 2000  
Page Three

an effective player within Codex, U.S. standards must be science-based, reflective of current practices, and be national in scope, which will give the U.S. a strong basis for negotiation. It is, therefore, critical that the U.S. positions on several Codex standards be thoroughly reviewed by industry so current industry practices are reflected. We, therefore, encourage more timely communications between FDA and industry. In the increasingly global marketplace, the promotion of international harmonization is imperative, and the U.S. should take a leadership role in the Codex process. Thus, it is crucial that U.S. positions be shared with other countries in a timely manner so meaningful discussions can occur during Codex committee meetings.

Lastly, economic fraud should be a CFSAN priority because of its importance to both consumers and industry. FDA must continue to pursue and prosecute fraudulent activities. Individuals and companies engaged in such activities are just as likely to have little regard for the welfare and safety of the public and should not be allowed to operate. FDA's efforts in this regard should be to enforce the existing statutory provisions.

In conclusion, ADS appreciates the opportunity to provide comments on CFSAN's 2001 priorities. While we agree that the Food Safety Initiative should be CFSAN's top priority, the Agency is also responsible for other important functions as outlined in these comments. Thus, we encourage the Agency to balance its resources accordingly.

Sincerely,



Pamela A. Chumley  
Executive Director



# *The Association for Dressings & Sauces*

## *Manufacturer Member List*



Bestfoods	T. Marzetti Company
Cains Foods, Inc.	McIlhenny Company/TABASCO® Brands
Chelten House Products, Inc.	Mega Alimentos, S.A. de C.V.
Clements Foods Company	Morehouse Foods, Inc.
The Clorox Company	Mount Vernon Enterprises
Dean Dip & Dressing Company	Mrs. Clark's Foods, Inc.
Food Specialties Company, Inc.	North Coast Processing, Inc.
Furst-McNess Company	Olds Products Company
G&L Food Products, LLC	Ott Food Products Company
M.A. Gedney Company	Piknik Products Company
Martin Gillet & Company, Inc.	Pillsbury (Skollsberg's)
Gold Pure Food Products Company, Inc.	Plochman Inc.
Golden State Foods	Purity Products, Inc.
Green Garden Food Products, Inc.	Q & B Foods, Inc.
Griffin Foods Company	The Red Wing Company, Inc.
Halben Food Mfg. Company, Inc.	Reily Foods Company
Hartville Kitchen, Inc.	Richelieu Foods, Inc.
The Hudson Companies, Inc.	Safeway, Inc.
InterCorp Excelle Foods, Inc.	The C.F. Sauer Company
Ken's Foods, Inc.	Silver Spring Gardens, Inc.
Kimlan Foods Company, Inc.	Sunlight Foods, Inc.
Kraft Foods, Inc.	Superior Coffee & Foods
The Kroger Company	Supreme Oil Company
Land O' Lakes, Inc.	Thor-Shackel Horseradish Company
Leo's Italian, Inc.	Tulkoff Products, Inc.
Lipton	Unifine Richardson B.V.
Litehouse, Inc.	Van Law Food Products, Inc.
Louis Albert & Son Foods Company	Ventura Foods, LLC
Marie's Quality Foods, Inc.	Walden Farms, Inc.



# ***The Association for Dressings & Sauces***

## ***Supplier Member List***



Accurate Ingredients, Inc.	FIS - North America, Inc.	Nutrinova, Inc.
Admix, Inc.	Fort Dearborn Company	Omega Protein, Inc.
AG Processing, Inc.	Francis-Mustoe & Company	Opta® Food Ingredients
Ajinomoto USA, Inc.	Frencharoma Imports Company, Inc.	Pechiney Plastic Packaging, Inc.
Anchor Glass Container Corporation	French's Ingredients	Phoenix Closures, Inc.
Archer Daniels Midland Company	Ful-Flav-R Food Products Co., Inc.	Pretium Packaging
Arla Foods	Genpak-Processor Division	Printpack, Inc.
AVEBE America, Inc.	Gilroy Foods	Purac America
Ball-Foster Glass Container, LLC	Givaudan Roure Flavors	Quest International
Baltimore Spice, Inc.	GRAFCO PET Packaging Technologies	RXI Plastics, Inc.
Basic Vegetable Products	Grain Processing Corporation	Rhodia, Inc.
Bender-Goodman Company, Inc.	Gum Technology Corporation	Ripon Pickle Company, Inc.
Blackmer	Haliburton International Corporation	Roquefort Association, Inc.
Bran + Luebbe	Chr. Hansen, Inc.	SKW Biosystems, Inc.
Brown Produce Company	Harvest States Oilseed Refining	Sakai Spice (Canada) Corporation
Bunge Foods	T. Hasegawa U.S.A., Inc.	Saputo Cheese USA, Inc.
Burns Philp Food Ingredients	Hassia USA, Inc.	Sartori Food Corporation
Butter Buds Food Ingredients	Heller Seasonings & Ingredients, Inc.	Schröder North America Corporation
Cancom Grain Company, Inc.	Hickory Specialties, Inc.	Scott Turbon® Mixer, Inc.
Cargill Foods	Hueck Foils, LLC	Sealright Company, Inc.
Cerestar USA, Inc.	Hunter, Walton & Company, Inc.	SHURflo
Chemicolloid Laboratories, Inc.	ISP Alginates, Inc.	Silgan Containers Corporation
Chianti Cheese Company	Imperial Sensus	Silliker Laboratories Group
Citrus and Allied Essences Ltd.	Inova Food Ingredients	Sokol and Company
Commercial Creamery Company	International Flavors & Fragrances	Sonstegard Foods Company
Continental Colloids, Inc.	JPS Packaging	A.E. Staley Manufacturing Co.
Corn Products International, Inc.	Jungbunzlauer, Inc.	SupHerb Farms
Cryovac, Sealed Air Corporation	Kalsec, Inc.	Takeda Vitamin & Food USA, Inc.
Curwood, Inc.	Kelco Biopolymers	TIC Gums, Inc.
Cutler Egg Products, Inc.	Kerr/Suncoast Closures	Todhunter Foods
Danisco Cultor, Inc.	Letica Corporation	Tomen America, Inc.
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G.S. Dunn & Company, Ltd.	McIlhenny Company/TABASCO® Brands	Universal Flavors
E.E. & Brian Smith (1928) Ltd.	Meta Systems from Containerboard	Vanguard Container Corporation
Edlong Flavors	Michael Foods, Inc/Papetti's	Vegetable Juices, Inc.
Elite Spice, Inc.	Morton Salt (Div. Morton Intl., Inc.)	Walle Corporation
Enercon Industries Corporation	Nakano Foods	Winpak Lane, Inc.
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Fabri-Kal Corporation	Nutrients, Inc.	

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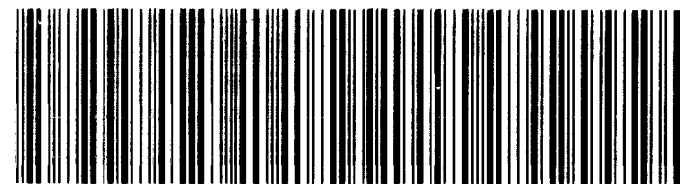
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